

Notes from 5/25/95 Meeting at City Hall on Remediation Issues

Thirteen neighbors present along with Frank Battaglia, EPA Boston; Joe Unsworth, DEM; and Peter Alviti, City of Cranston.

Peter gave an overview of the remediation process.

The following questions and/or subjects came up during the course of the meeting:

What happens to the by-products of excavation? (These are too small to be of concern).

Curt Spaulding, Executive Director of Save the Bay inquired about remediation of the Pawtuxet River. (Peter explained that a plan has been prepared but is still under review. He outlined the general approach that will be taken, i.e. construction of cofferdam, removal of sediments by excavation, etc., but said that this would not be undertaken until the fall or winter).

Spaulding then inquired about possible downstream migration of contaminants. (Frank Battaglia said that interim reports on the river were available in various locations and that the agency was waiting for a final report in late '95 or early '96. He said some contamination has migrated downstream but most of it is around the outfall where excavation is planned. A final report is needed to see just how much may be downstream and whether there's a need to remediate based on risk assessment).

Frank next explained the voluntary IRM being undertaken by Ciba and the fact that this is being done at the company's own risk. EPA could require Ciba to do more if it is found necessary.

Is Robert Circle upgrade from Ciba? (Yes, no contaminants could flow from the property up to Robert Circle).

Will vapor from the site travel/can the hot spots move? (No).

At this point Frank Battaglia explained the stabilization action in detail.

How deep is the groundwater? (4-10 feet).

How much soil will be removed? (780 cubic yards).

How do contaminants get in the ground in the first place? (Frank explained that the manufacturing processes and lack of regulations of the 1950s and '60s allowed for various avenues of contamination but said that there are no buried containers in the ground, which seemed to be the thrust of the question).

Can the City use the buildings while the stabilization system is up and running? (Yes).

Who's paying for all this work? (Ciba).



5/25 Meeting Notes/Pg. 2

How long for EPA clearance? (Frank: Need reports; maybe by the end of September for excavation; then river reports sometime next year. But this is an ongoing process).

What if unforeseen problems occur? (Ciba always pays).

Will there be an environmental site assessment of the railroad land? (Yes).

Has Ciba volunteered to do this remediation? (Yes, with respect to the soil and river remediation; the stabilization work comes under a consent agreement with EPA).

How about all the other chemical companies in the area; do they have any responsibility for river contamination? (Frank: Yes, that's a possibility but data indicates that past contamination dwarfs what is being thrown in the river now).

Curt Spanlading asked about Corps of Engineers plans to dredge the Pawtuxet River up to the dam and whether EPA had received any calls from the Corps about toxic sediment. (Frank said they had not heard from the Corps and what are toxic sediments anyway? He did not think they were there. He said we have reached the point in the river analysis where it is not necessary to go any further).

Who's doing the excavation work? (Franklin Environmental Services from Wrentham, MA).

Is there a danger of river overflow carrying contaminants into the neighborhoods? (No).

Joe Unsworth said that DEM's goal is to get the river back to Class C standard.

A First and Burbank neighbor tried to raise the access road issue and Peter said that this meeting was for environmental matters only. The neighbor replied that the pond is an environmental issue. Peter said that there should not be any problems with respect to the pond.

How about children playing outside while dust from the excavation is blowing? How concerned should we be? (Frank indicated that there should not be a concern).

How are trucks going to be covered? (PGC was asked by Peter, Frank and Joe to find out more about the trucks and get the information to them and to the gentleman who inquired. His name is Ron Alpaio, 80 Mill St., Tel. 467-4092).

At the conclusion of the meeting Peter Alviti mentioned to PGC that the DEM Wetlands Division could require certain things to

5-25 Meeting Notes/pg. 3

be done regarding runoff on the production area. He suggested that the appropriate person from Ciba call him prior to any contact with DEM on this matter and before any contractor is hired for the work.

PGC spoke with Curt Spaulding and he was complimentary of the remediation plan. Save the Bay wants to do a story on it for its mid-summer newsletter; Curt will be calling for information later.

notes